(c) the details of amount sanctioned for National Highways in NE States (North-Eastern States)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) For improvement of National Highways in the country 235 estimates amounting to Rs. 408.55 crore have been sanctioned during 1999-2000. Out of these, 68 estimates amounting to Rs. 68.68 crore have been sanctioned for North Eastern Region.

Privatisation of National Highways

186. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering privatisation of National Highways in the country; and

(b) if so, the circumstances which warranted this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The constraint of resoursces led to innovative methods of financing for development of national highways through private sector participation.

Construction of six jetty port near Haldia

187. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether six-jetty port is proposed to be constructed near Haldia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when would autonomy be granted to Haldia Dock complex to increase its earnings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Haldia Dock complex is already enjoying functional autonomy in establishment and financial matters.

Development of Vadinar Port

188. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether request have been received to develop Vadinar Port in Gujarat for growth in traffic; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken thereon; and

(c) the target for development of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Surface Transport had received request from State Government of Gujarat to develop Vadinar. However, the request was not considered as Vadinar has been an integral part of the Major Port of Kandla. Incidentally, no Port by the name of 'Vadinar Port' has been notified.

Declaration of new Highways in Madhya Pradesh

†189. SHRI RAGHAVJI; Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of highways for which recommendation has been made by the Madhya Pradesh to be declared as National Highway during the last decade;

(b) the names of the highways which have been declared as National Highway out of these recommended highways;

(c) the names of the recommended highways which have not been declared as National Highway even after recommendation made by the Experts Committee of the Central Government alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of amount provided by the central Government for the repair of different National Highways in

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.